

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
9/7/08 – 9/20/08**

DISTRICT 1

COs Dave Painter, Ryan Aho, Sgt. Marc Pomroy and PCO Kevin Postma responded to the scene of a capsized boat on Fortune Lake. The capsized boat was located and a hat was found floating nearby. A witness reported seeing one subject fishing near the site. The COs did not see any sign of the angler near the boat and PCO Kevin Postma began to search with a grapple hook. PCO Postma hooked onto the victim on the first throw and pulled the subject into the patrol boat. CPR was started and the victim was rushed to shore and the waiting Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. Attempts to revive the subject were unsuccessful.

COs Brian Bacon and Ryan Aho responded to a shots fired complaint. The COs located a vehicle parked in the back of a field near the complaint. Contact with the subjects revealed they were not the subjects involved in the shooting complaint, but were in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter and PCO Kevin Postma worked the grouse decoy this past weekend. A small game hunter approached and attempted to take the grouse from a vehicle. When the hunter was contacted, his loaded and uncased shotgun was on the front seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Eberly ticketed a bear hunter for an illegal bear bait that was littered with trash and illegal materials.

CO Ryan Aho and Sgt. Marc Pomroy contacted a hunter on an ORV who had just driven around a gate marked with a "No Trespassing" sign. The subject did not have hunter orange with him, was not wearing a helmet and had previously been warned by the land owner for trespassing.

CO Ryan Aho observed a vehicle struggling to stay on the roadway of M-95. The vehicle nearly struck two other motorists before CO Aho could get the vehicle stopped. The subject was contacted and found to be intoxicated and uncooperative. The subject was taken to the hospital for a blood draw with the help of the Michigan State Police (MSP) and Iron Mountain City Police and lodged in the Dickinson County Jail.

CO Jason Wicklund was driving on a gravel road in Iron County when he came upon a bird hunter standing in the roadway. His car door was open and he was observed running up to two grouse he had just shot in the roadway. A check of the subject revealed no hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

Area COs responded to several complaints received from bear check stations of people attempting to register cub bears. In one instance, CO Dave Miller reported investigating a cub bear that weighed an estimated 40 lbs.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kyle Publiski ticketed an individual he encountered in the act of trapping rabbits out of season, by illegal method and with untagged traps.

CO Kyle Publiski reports a jury trial conviction on two counts of hunter harassment in a case pending since last fall. The defendant claimed that all the noise and ruckus he produced on his property adjacent to the complainant's hunting location was just the result of his unorthodox dog training methods. Among other things, that included swatting tree trunks with large clubs right at the property line.

COs Mike Hammill, Derek Miller, PCO Bob Crisp, and Sgt. Dave Rantanen assisted the Department of Corrections, MSP and Luce County Sheriff's Department in searching a large wooded area near the Luce/Chippewa County line for a prisoner who walked away from the Newberry Correctional Facility. It was just before dark, and COs Hammill and Crisp were traveling west on M28 when they observed a subject matching the description of the escapee walking along the tracks. CO Hammill turned his patrol vehicle around and the foot chase was on. The escapee had too much of a head start and entered the woods to avoid capture. The search team found the prisoner hiding in a nearby building the next morning.

CO Mike Hammill and PCO Bob Crisp took action when they followed an illegal ORV trail to a bear hunter who was not wearing hunter orange and was hunting over illegal bait. The hunter wanted to know why the COs were there just before prime time.

While checking a state forest road, CO Reid Roeske came upon a vehicle that had attempted to drive off road. The vehicle was partially stuck in a mud bog. Upon contact with the occupants, a loaded .22 cal. rifle was found on the front seat. The operator was arrested for several violations, including operating while impaired and possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

CO John Wenzel ticketed one subject for hunting geese out of season.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon and PCO Jared Ferguson ticketed one subject for hunting bear over an illegal bait. They also ticketed one subject for failing to tag his bear.

DISTRICT 3

CO Eric Bottorff and Sgt. Greg Drogowski walked into an illegal bear bait that was established early and littered, and found a hunter not wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Michael Feagan and Eric Bottorff observed two subjects snagging salmon on the Ocqueoc River. One subject was reefing and jerking his hook through the water so hard he almost fell over backwards. Both subjects were issued tickets and restitution charged on 31 lbs. of salmon illegally taken.

CO Richard Stowe assisted a POC facility owner on the weekend when a bull elk gored another one, and the injured one had to be killed. Many questions were answered on what was allowed and what wasn't as far as removal of elk parts from the facility, head retention for testing, etc.

CO Richard Stowe initiated and conducted an interview with the local newspaper regarding CWD and baiting and feeding regulations.

CO Eric Bottorff found where an ORV had operated illegally in the Pigeon River State Forest. CO Bottorff followed the tracks to a state forest campground and found the ORV parked at a campsite. Contact with the subjects also proved they had failed to pay for their campsite. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Michael Feagan and Eric Bottorff responded to a bear dog hunter/landowner trespass complaint. No violations were found, and the situation was defused with both parties being contacted and the law explained.

COs Eric Bottorff and Michael Feagan received a complaint of snagging on the Cheboygan River, with a good description of the subjects. Upon arrival, the subjects were not there, but the COs set up surveillance on other anglers. The subjects returned later and began snagging salmon. After being contacted, it was determined one subject was a non-resident who used his brother's identification to purchase a resident fishing license. Tickets were issued for snagging and for a non-resident fishing without a valid license.

CO Kelly Ross and PCO Mark DePew investigated a complaint of a bull elk shot by a hunter with an elk antlerless only license. The hunter had called the Atlanta Field Office to report the violation. PCO DePew interviewed the hunter who stated that he observed five elk in an open field and believed four of them to be cows. The hunter then shot at the biggest of the four he believed were cows. The hunter shot twice, and upon checking, found the elk to be a spike bull with 16 inch tall antlers. PCO DePew and CO Ross found that the dead elk also had a hole in one antler. Additional field work revealed a second spike bull that had been shot within 300 yards of the first kill site. PCO Depew has discussed the case with the local prosecutor and will be seeking prosecution.

CO Nick Torsky and PCO Matt Theunick wrote a ticket to a person participating in a bear hunt because he had not purchased a bear participation license. The subject had his licensed bear hounds in his vehicle, possessed a firearm, was conversing on the radio with other hunters in the group and didn't believe he needed a participation

license. PCO Theunick and CO Torsky also located a bear hunter in full camouflage with a rifle over bait and ticketed him for no hunter orange.

PCO Matt Theunick and CO Nick Torsky were working the new rail to trail from Gaylord to Cheboygan and observed an ORV operating on the newly graveled track. The young operator stated that he was from the U.P. and didn't know that he could not operate on the trail. The COs wanted to talk with his parents and followed the youngster back to where they were staying. The father conveyed a similar story, but when asked for his identification the father's address turned out to be local. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar and Sgt. Chris Morris located a bear hunter on state land who was hunting in an old permanent blind without a name and address attached, as well as having cut seven cedar trees for a shooting lane. CO Molnar contacted the hunter who claimed he had not cut the trees and was told by a friend that there was an old blind he could use near the bait site. The hunter was hunting with a firearm and was not wearing any hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar and Sgt. Chris Morris worked the opening weekend of bear season and located several bear baits near a swamp on state land. Several violations regarding illegal tree stands, cutting of trees, and dirty bait sites were located. The COs worked the area and located a vehicle parked near the state land 45 minutes after hunting hours. CO Molnar and Sgt. Morris went afield and found a hunter in a tree stand over dirty bait, up in an unmarked tree stand with his arrow nocked and at the ready. The hunter later admitted he was hunting after hours because a big bear had been photographed on a trail camera coming into the bait after hunting hours and he intended to hunt for the bear after dark.

CO Bill Webster received a complaint of a hunter who had shot a spike horned buck in the early antlerless deer season. The hunter mistakenly shot the spike thinking it was a doe. CO Webster interviewed the hunter and issued a ticket for the violation.

While checking small game hunters, CO Andrea Albert ticketed a hunter for not having a plugged shotgun while shooting and/or possessing woodcock.

COs Steve Speigl and Mike Hearn teamed up on a boat patrol to check opening day youth waterfowl hunters on Elk and Skegemog Lakes. The COs checked several groups of hunters enjoying the opportunity.

CO Andrea Erratt and Sgt. Jim Gorno conducted a Great Lakes boat patrol to the Beaver Island area. The COs checked anglers and commercial fishing activity near Garden Island and High Island. COs Erratt and Gorno also assisted Wildlife Division and US Fish & Wildlife personnel on land use violations on Garden Island.

CO Andrea Erratt followed fresh ORV tracks into a large tract of state land closed to ORV use. At the end of the tracks she discovered a subject screwing in tree steps for a tree stand. The subject was ticketed.

CO Andrea Erratt ticketed six subjects for fishing violations. One subject was ticketed for the third time using an M-60 snag hook and two other subjects were snagging and smoking marijuana.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl Vanderwall received a complaint of a bear hunter on state land with dirty bait. The COs contacted the hunter on opening morning sitting over a 50 gallon drum with a rifle in full camouflage. The hunter also cut trees for shooting lanes, and failed to notify the COs while carrying a concealed pistol.

COs Carl Vanderwall and Duane Budreau ticketed 10 fishermen for fish, litter, and trespass violations related to the salmon run up the Bear River. While checking one snagger CO Vanderwall accompanied the subject to his car to get his fishing license. At the vehicle CO Vanderwall observed a rifle lying on the front seat. Further investigation revealed a fully loaded 9mm assault rifle. The angler was charged with no license and a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

DISTRICT 4

CO Brian Lebel stopped a vehicle shining fields in Mecosta County. There were four men in the truck. CO Lebel observed a gun case sticking out from under the back seat. The subjects denied having a weapon in the vehicle. Closer examination of the men in the back seat revealed the point of a rifle barrel showing behind one of the men's knees. A loaded rifle was retrieved from under the legs of the back seat passengers. A search of the truck was made and a spent shell casing was found on the floor. The driver stated they had shot at a coyote earlier. The men were ticketed for various violations.

CO Jair Kollasch ticketed a subject for fishing within the 300 ft closed area near the DNR weir on the Boardman River in Traverse City. CO Kollasch had contacted this same subject the week prior attempting to snag fish on the Betsie River in Benzie County.

CO Mike Borkovich ticketed a subject for a burning violation. The subject was attempting to burn a house trailer. The subject was burning too close to his residence, and because of the high heat he damaged the siding on his garage.

CO Diane Drogowski observed a subject fishing within 300 ft of the weir on the Boardman River in Traverse City, which is closed to fishing. CO Drogowski contacted the subject at his vehicle. When the CO asked to see his fishing license he produced a 2007 fishing license belonging to someone else. At first the subject stated that he didn't have his current fishing license with him, but later admitted to not having one. A license check indicated that the subject has not had a fishing license since 2004.

CO Diane Drogowski had information that a subject from downstate with two outstanding DNR warrants out of the Missaukee County Court was staying in a cabin in Kalkaska County. CO Drogowski contacted the subject who was taken into custody and

lodged in the Missaukee County jail. The subject stated that he was going to pay the tickets the following week, despite the fact that he was written tickets for littering and excessive bait in 2005.

CO Diane Drogowski and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand responded to a trespassing complaint in Grand Traverse County. A bear hunter was bear hunting on his private property when two subjects dressed in camouflage walked into his hunting location and stood and looked at his bait. When the hunter yelled to the subjects, they ran. The hunter exited his stand and located the subjects' vehicle parked on the seasonal road. As the COs got to the area, the vehicle matching the description given by the complainant was observed. The COs contacted both the hunter/property owner and the subjects, who stated they were scouting for the upcoming bow season and denied trespassing on private property. After a lengthy discussion with the two subjects, they admitted to trespassing.

CO Carla Soper was checking a closed section of the river near the weir in Manistee County when she encountered two persons fishing. After contacting the anglers, CO Soper discovered fillets from five salmon in a cooler owned by the persons fishing. One subject mentioned that they had been fishing at that location without incident for the last 15 years and didn't understand why there was a problem this year.

CO Steve Converse followed ORV tracks on public land in Manistee County to a residence just as the operator left his driveway and headed down the road for another ride. CO Converse stopped the subject and discovered that he was the same person who had operated on the public land, and also had a valid warrant for his arrest.

CO Steve Converse was walking into a location traditionally known as a Manistee County snagging spot when he heard a sound like a whip. As he walked the next 75 yards the noise became louder. When he reached the river he discovered that the sound was coming from a person whipping his fishing rod back as he attempted to snag fish with an unbaited hook. Ticket was issued.

Sgt. Kevin Hackworth received a complaint from a local river guide regarding subjects who were snagging fish near Sulak Landing in Lake County. Sgt. Hackworth arrived in time to watch a subject standing inside fenced and signed private property snag a fish and bring it in to shore. Sgt. Hackworth asked the subject if he had read the signs and seen the cable behind him. The subject said that he had seen them but that he thought they had been placed there as a joke. Enforcement action taken.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint of small game hunters on Newaygo County Federal land, hunting without orange. He located three subjects who fit the complaint description. The subjects were ALL wearing hunter orange but had a total of 19 squirrels between them. One subject admitted to shooting seven squirrels and said another hunter in the woods gave him two more. The man was ticketed for the over limit.

CO Brian Brosky was on foot patrol on the Pere Marquette River in Mason County when he encountered a man and woman attempting to snag salmon in a remote location. The male attempted to get out of a ticket by using the excuse that since he was such a large "fella" he needed to jerk harder on the line to get the fish to bite.

CO Steve Converse was on foot patrol along Bear Creek in Manistee County when he observed a subject that he had twice ticketed for snagging holding a fishing rod along the shore. As he approached he saw that the subject was once again attempting to take salmon by foul-hooking them. A check of his equipment revealed two bare, oversized, in-line treble hooks.

CO Steve Converse was working at Tippy Dam in Manistee County when he came upon several persons throwing the marginally legal gear typically used this time of year (stamped 1 oz. lead weight with treble hooks attached). The group had hooked and kept three fish before CO Converse could get to them. Enforcement action taken.

While checking a group of anglers, CO Steve Converse watched as one member of the group used a gaff to spear into foul-hooked fish caught by the others and then put the fish on a stringer. A check of the subjects resulted in the discovery of illegal gear on all of the accomplices. Tickets were issued and restitution is being sought for all the fish illegally taken.

COs Angela Greenway, Carolyn Dice and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth received a complaint of persons electro-fishing salmon on the Baldwin River behind a residence in Lake County. The COs responded and filmed one subject with a long handled spear along the river at the location. A check of the location yielded an additional spear and a gaff being used by other persons at the residence on the river. No evidence of electro-fishing was found.

COs Carolyn Dice and Angela Greenway responded to a complaint of trespassing on the Pere Marquette River near Wingleton access in Lake County. When they arrived they found three persons fishing in front of the "No Trespassing" signs. The nearby landowners applauded as they watched the COs write tickets to the offenders.

CO Brian Brosky was working near the Maple Leaf Landing on the Pere Marquette River when he encountered three individuals snagging salmon. Two of the snaggers were unsuccessfully trying to instruct the third in the art of foul-hooking fish. Finally, one of the instructors snagged a salmon and handed the rod to the "new guy" and let him reel it in. The group admitted to keeping several foul-hooked fish and turned them over to CO Brosky.

The number of baiting complaints is picking up with the Lower Peninsula baiting ban. CO Sam Kosciński received a complaint regarding a pickup load of sugar beets that had been dumped on private property in Wexford County. CO Kosciński located the pile of bait, and as CO Kosciński was leaving the area, the property owner drove up. Upon contacting the landowner, a brand new spin cast type feeder and 100 lbs. of shelled

corn was observed in the back of his pickup. The subject was ticketed for baiting when prohibited.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn addressed a group of 400 people at a Sportsmen's Banquet where he provided information on CWD and the baiting ban as well as other law changes. The group was receptive and had several questions.

CO John Huspen received a complaint of a subject taking wood from a pile of logs cut under contract by a local timber harvester. Officer Huspen located the subject at his residence along with a load of 10 foot pulp logs still in the subject's vehicle. The subject had an expired fuelwood permit and told the CO he thought it was an old timber sale and it would be okay to take the wood.

COs Matt Liestenfeltz and William Cherry contacted a subject who was overheard on a CB channel talking about killing a deer and needing help with it. The subject lives in a small community where many local residents talk back and forth on the CB. When the COs went to the subject's residence, they located parts of the deer and seized fresh venison. The subject admitted to having shot the deer the night before in his backyard.

CO John Huspen observed an area where a vehicle had driven around a bermed two-track road closed to motor vehicle traffic. CO Huspen followed the tracks to a vehicle parked in the woods where several subjects were found to be cutting fuelwood without a permit.

CO Bobbi Bashore encountered a bear hunter who had put out corn for bear bait prior to the baiting season and had put some of the bait into containers. When CO Bashore contacted the hunter, he was not wearing hunter orange and was hunting from an illegal stand.

CO John Huspen assisted sheriff deputies and the MSP with a subject who had fled from the deputies on an ORV. Officer Huspen tracked the ORV on foot to a residence where the subject was located and arrested. The ORV was found and seized.

CO Joel Lundberg contacted an angler beneath the Beaverton Dam and the youngster mentioned that his dad had caught a musky. Officer Lundberg located the undersized musky hidden on a stringer in the woods and then located the dad and obtained a confession. A ticket was issued.

It was well after dark when COs Steve Lockwood and Joel Lundberg came upon a truck containing bird dog boxes parked in the woods on state land. After a short search of the area, the COs heard a dog's beeper collar. Approximately 300 yards away, COs located a deceased hunter with his dogs by his side. The subject had suffered a fatal heart attack earlier in the day.

CO Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of an illegally killed deer in Ogemaw County. The complainant had witnessed a subject shoot at a deer from a vehicle on the road and was able to get the license plate number. Officer Lockwood contacted the subject and obtained a confession, the .22 rifle used to shoot the deer, and the freshly packaged venison.

In response to a complaint of marijuana growing on state land, CO Steve Lockwood, along with trooper from the MSP, located the large scale growing operation. A camp was also located of those tending the operation. The subjects were at the camp and some were arrested while some fled on foot. Before it was over, CO Lockwood, the DEA, FBI, ATF, and MSP, assisted by Forest, Mineral & Fire Management personnel, had seized 4011 marijuana plants with an approximate street value of four million dollars. Several arrests were made and several other subjects were identified. The operation is one of the largest ever located in the state and was reported on the national news.

CO Warren MacNeill made arrests for two different illegal bear baits. Neither of the subjects were wearing hunter orange when contacted.

CO Warren MacNeill responded to a distressed vessel call. A 60 foot yacht had lost all power and steering and was headed for the rocks. Officer MacNeill was able to hook onto the boat and get it away from the rocks with about one foot to spare.

CO Brian Olsen checked a hunter's license and observed that the date of birth did not match the appearance of the hunter. Further investigation revealed a borrowed hunting license. A ticket was issued.

CO Brian Olsen contacted two hunters and observed one of them hide something in the woods. Officer Olsen talked with the hunter who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and then located an open can of beer where he had witnessed the subject hiding something. Further investigation revealed the subject was intoxicated and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

COs Larn Strawn and Jeremy Payne received an anonymous complaint that a couple of people were poaching geese from a motor vehicle. The tip included detailed information about the vehicle and the location of the incident. The COs responded to the location and initiated an investigation. Through careful examination of the crime scene, the collection of evidence, and several interviews, the COs determined that the subjects involved rode in the back of a pick up truck as it drove the roads searching for feeding geese in fields. Once a flock close to the road was discovered, the subjects would drive by and shoot the geese while still riding in the back of the truck. The COs discovered and seized five geese and a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a shining patrol, COs Phil Hudson and Ken Lowell observed a small light in a ditch waving back and forth. The COs thought it might be a violator with a deer down, flagging a vehicle. The COs then started to investigate. It turned out to be an intoxicated female who had been dropped off and had fallen into the water in the ditch. She had no physical injuries but did have an outstanding arrest warrant. The COs gave her a dry coat to put on until deputies arrived to transport her.

COs Ken Lowell and Phil Hudson worked a complaint involving two bucks that were taken on opening day of the early antlerless hunt. The COs obtained confessions and seized antlers and both deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person received a call from a resident who saw five mud jeeps headed toward state land. CO Person drove to the other end of the property where they would have to come out and waited to intercept them. Shortly after arriving, the CO saw all five jeeps mud bogging in a deep hole. The CO stopped them all as they exited the hole, explained the ORV laws, and issued tickets for operating in a closed area. They were all warned on the erosive conditions and operating in a wetland. One subject was also lodged in the Midland County Jail on a misdemeanor warrant.

During the early antlerless deer season, CO Phil Hudson was setting up surveillance on illegal bait and encountered several hunters near the site. When CO Hudson contacted the group, all subjects denied knowing about the bait in the area. CO Hudson then drove down the road and parked in a different spot. The CO walked back into the woods without using his flashlight and sat back down at the bait. At approximately 6:30 a.m. a hunter climbed into the stand and loaded his firearm. At 7:30 a.m. CO Hudson contacted the hunter, who was from the group he had checked earlier. He said that he thought the CO had left. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Daniel Lee received a complaint in Saginaw County of subjects hunting geese after the early season closed. The CO responded to the location and found a group of five hunting geese in an open field. Besides attempting to take geese out of season, several subjects also were hunting with unplugged guns. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Lockwood and Nick Atkin were patrolling the trails when they witnessed a subject driving a vehicle carelessly and doing donuts in the trail. The vehicle was stopped and one of the occupants had numerous outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly heard a gunshot coming from a corn field during the early antlerless firearm season. Sgt. Kimmerly investigated and observed a hunter dragging a deer out of the field from about 150 yards away. The hunter saw the patrol truck and knelt low to the ground. With binoculars he watched the hunter take his tag out of his pocket and punch the tag with his hunting knife. When the hunter was contacted, the Sgt. told him that he was a little late tagging his deer. The young hunter said, "What do you mean?" The Sgt. then held up his binoculars. The young hunter said he was sorry, it

was his first deer and he was in a hurry to show his dad. He advised he just forgot. The Sgt. believed him and issued a warning.

CO Robert Hobkirk was requested to respond to a complaint of a possible homicide/suicide. CO Hobkirk was first on scene and assisted EMS and the Huron County Sheriff's Department with clearing the house and securing the scene until detectives arrived.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a complaint of a buck hanging inside a shed at a residence. Upon attempting contact at the residence, no one would come to the door. CO Hobkirk found evidence of a blood trail and a fresh buried carcass in the yard. After finally making contact with the homeowner and asking to dig up the carcass, he confessed to shooting the buck and turned over his firearm and the antlers. A ticket was written for the illegal deer.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a complaint of a subject riding a bike and seeing a buck hanging at a deer camp. Upon arriving, CO Hobkirk found the deer had been moved and was now on an ORV inside a trailer that was open. CO Hobkirk eventually found the husband and wife still hunting over bait and claiming they were not aware of the baiting ban. Tickets were written for the illegal deer.

CO Jason Smith and PCO Seth Rhodea investigated an ORV trespass complaint that resulted in verbal warnings for juveniles.

CO Scott Brown received a road hunting complaint from property owners who watched a subject shoot a buck from his vehicle across from their house. The complainants followed the shooter to his residence where CO Brown caught up with the subject and recovered the deer as well as the firearm. Tickets were written.

CO Scott Brown is investigating a complaint of a large group of almost 40 people who were camping in the Minden State game area and monopolizing a large area of land for the entire fall and winter seasons. Tickets were written to some for camping over the 15 day limit and instructions were given to the others to move their camps by the 15th day.

DISTRICT 7

CO Ken Cerny wrote a subject a ticket during the early firearm antlerless deer season for taking an antlered deer. The subject stated he thought he was shooting at an antlerless deer.

While on marine patrol on Lake Michigan, CO Andy Bauer issued a ticket to the operator of a 32-foot vessel for towing a skier without an observer. When contacted, the boat operator commented on how he did not think the DNR worked on boats in September.

CO David Rodgers checked a subject who shot a deer on the opening day of the early firearm antlerless season. The tag was improperly validated and further checking found that the subject had borrowed the tag. The subject did not have a valid deer license and was issued a ticket for an illegal deer.

CO Steve Orange received a complaint of a bait pile on private property. When CO Orange arrived he found a very large bait pile with corn, sugar beets and various other bait. A ticket was issued.

Sgt. Dave Shaw happened on to a subject with a fresh killed deer on the second day of the early season. The tag was improperly validated and appeared to have been used before. The subject was issued a ticket for improper tag use.

CO Gerard Goulette received a complaint that a subject had his trail cameras stolen. When CO Goulette arrived along with Sgt. Dave Shaw, they went back to the area where the cameras were stolen. While in the area they discovered that the complainant had two large feed piles of bait set up near where the cameras were stolen. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ivan Perez and Gerard Goulette, while checking anglers in Ottawa County, observed a subject trying to dump some fish as they approached him. The subject was found with 32 bluegills over his limit.

DISTRICT 8

In separate instances, CO Damon Owens and CO Daniel Prince received trespass complaints and located subjects hunting on private property where they did not have permission to hunt. One of the subjects in each instance was not wearing the required hunter orange garment. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a foot patrol on a heavily hunted parcel of property, CO Daniel Bigger observed evidence leading to a subject's residence. Upon further investigation it was discovered that the subject shot a buck during the antlerless only season and killed three Canada Geese without the proper waterfowl licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy and PCO Kyle Bader contacted two subjects trespassing on the railroad tracks; one subject was carrying a firearm. The subject was hunting rabbits and was not wearing orange and had no small game license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy and PCO Kyle Bader contacted two subjects who were fishing without licenses. One of the subjects was wanted on two outstanding arrest warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith received a complaint that a subject shot a buck on the opening day of the antlerless only season. Upon further investigation it was discovered that the illegal

buck had been killed in the morning, and the deer was caped, de-boned, packaged, and put in the freezer by night fall. The illegal antlers were found hidden behind a dresser in the subject's bedroom. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

While on patrol, CO Linda Scheidler spotted black smoke coming from a back yard. Upon investigating the fire, she found it to be unattended. CO Scheidler contacted the landowner who stated he was just burning brush. CO Scheidler informed him that she had already seen the pile of rubbish including plywood, a mattress, paint cans, and carpet. The subject had two additional piles nearby, appearing as if they were next to be burned. Photos were taken and enforcement action taken. A few days later and just a few doors down, CO Scheidler again observed black smoke coming from a back yard. This time the resident was burning a house trailer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich and Sgt. Tom Wanless observed a van parked along a small set of woods adjacent to a bean field. While checking the area for hunting activity, the COs witnessed three subjects field dressing a deer. One subject was wearing all camouflage while the others were wearing hunter orange. The COs waited for the subjects to load the deer up and pull out onto the road where they contacted the subjects. The deer was not tagged and there was an uncased firearm in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling, CO Borkovich observed a subject standing near an open barn door where a deer was hanging. CO Borkovich stopped in and attempted to contact the subject. When the subject saw the CO, he closed the barn door and ran inside the house. CO Borkovich stood outside with the subject's wife until the subject reappeared from the house with a deer kill tag in his hand. It was too late for the subject; his wife opened the barn door and showed the CO the untagged deer. The subject admitted to shooting the deer with a shotgun. While checking the subject via the computer, CO Borkovich found the subject was a convicted felon and prohibited from possessing a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brandon Kieft were patrolling for goose hunters and contacted three goose hunters. After checking the group, they found one hunter had an unsigned federal stamp, one had an unplugged gun, and the third had no license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Mark Papineau contacted two hunters at a local recreation area. The COs watched two goose hunters walking around the ponds calling for geese after legal hunting hours. When they contacted the hunters, it was 25 minutes after hours and their guns were still loaded. The one hunter thought shooting hours ended a half hour after sunset. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft assisted detectives from the Wildlife Resource Protection Section with a complaint that a subject was selling garter snakes on Craig's List. CO Kieft

assisted the detective who went in and made an undercover buy. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Danny Walzak checked a shore angler who had an eight inch largemouth bass in possession. CO Walzak asked the angler why he did not release the fish and the angler replied that he has an aquarium and he thought that the fish would look good in it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively responded to a complaint of two subjects dropping milk jugs with hook and line attached all around a local lake. CO Shively observed a pontoon boat operating after dark with no navigational lights pull up and check one of the jugs which had a glow stick inside. CO Shively contacted the two subjects on the boat who were found to have a total of nine jugs with glow sticks inside and using bluegills as bait across the lake. The subjects were ticketed for fishing with more than two lines and the operator was also ticketed for no navigational lights while underway.

CO Ben Shively responded to a recreational trespass complaint in progress. The complainant observed a subject trespassing on his posted property, dressed in camouflage and carrying a firearm. The complainant followed the subject when he left and met CO Shively at the subject's address. CO Shively contacted the subject who admitted to not having permission to hunt the posted property and not wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel, along with PCO Mark Papineau, received two different complaints on a subject who shot a buck on opening day of the early antlerless deer season. The COs responded to the complaints and searched for several hours but were unable to locate the subject. CO Szyska and PCO Papineau returned to the area the next day and located the subject's home. Officers were able to observe a buck hanging in a barn. COs interviewed the subject and obtained a written confession from him. He admitted that he had shot a spike horn with tines greater than 3" and cut off the tines to shorten them and make the deer appear to be a sub-legal spike horn. The COs recovered the sawed off antlers on the floor of the pole barn. The subject had tagged the buck with his early antlerless tag and didn't validate it. The subject had ridden his unlicensed ORV illegally down the railroad tracks to retrieve the deer, and shot a coyote without a small game license. Warrants are being sought.

CO Todd Szyska and PCO Mark Papineau received a complaint that a subject had just shot a buck and a doe and was in the process of field dressing them. As the COs responded to the area, they asked the local police department, Richmond PD, to watch the subject until they could arrive on scene. Richmond PD made a traffic stop on the subject and held him for the COs. After searching through the subject's vehicle, PCO Papineau discovered a cooler full of quartered out venison. Upon further investigation, two sets of antlers were found hidden in the vehicle, a 6 point and a 4 point. Inside the vehicle were a 12 gauge shotgun, a .22 caliber rifle, and a loaded .44 magnum Super Blackhawk. The loaded .44 magnum was checked via LEIN and came back stolen. The subject also possessed an illegal spring loaded mechanical knife on his person. He

was taken into custody and lodged at the Macomb County jail and warrants are being requested.